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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,096	11/17/2003	Shoko Yoshida	117791	2226
25944	7590	07/06/2007		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER BORISSOV, IGOR N	
			ART UNIT 3628	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/06/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/713,096	Applicant(s) YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Igor N. Borissov	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-10, 15 and 26-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-10, and 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment received on 3/30/2007 is acknowledged and entered. Claim 15 has been withdrawn. Claims 5, 6, 11-14, 16-25 have been canceled. Claims 1-4, 7-9 have been amended. New claims 26-28 have been added. Claims 1-4, 7-10, 15 and 26-28 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 101 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-10 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claims 7 and 8 recites the following limitation in the last line: "...and the other is performed", which is confusing. It is not clear what exactly is considered to be performed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis et al. (EP 1 028 386 A2) in view of Chefalas et al. (US 2002/0138786 A1).

Berstis et al. teaches a computer-implemented method for customer registration, comprising:

Claims 1, 7 and 8,

receiving customer information inclusive of information about a customer that purchased merchandise and information about the merchandise that the customer purchased, sent from the customer; storing the received customer information onto a storage device and performing a customer registration as a purchaser of the merchandise; and transmitting information advising to perform a membership registration different from the customer registration to the customer, after completing the customer registration (transmitting a rebate to the consumer for completing on-line warranty registration), wherein the membership registration is performed in order for the registered customer to receive a service (warranty service) related to the merchandise that the customer purchased [0018]-[0023].

Berstis et al. does not specifically teach that said receiving a *service (warranty service)* related to the merchandise that the customer purchased includes a *web service*.

Chefalas et al. teaches a method for on-line product support, wherein warranty services, including repair or trouble-shooting of customer's product, are conducted on-line [0013]; [0008]; [0004].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Berstis et al. to include that said receiving a *service (warranty service)* related to the merchandise that the customer purchased includes a *web service*, as disclosed in Chefalas et al., because it would advantageously require less effort for a customer to receive a customer support, as specifically stated in Chefalas et al.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 26 and 28, see reasoning applied to claim 1.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis et al. in view of Chefalas et al. and further in view of Keen et al. (US 5,774,882).

Claim 3. Berstis et al. in view of Chefalas et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 3, except specifically teaching that the customer information includes information about whether a customer is a corporation or an individual, and only when the customer is an individual, information advising the membership registration is transmitted.

Keen et al. (Keen) teaches a method for customer registration, including a step of obtaining information whether the applicant is a corporation or an individual to be processed differently (C. 3, L. 34-57).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Meyer to include that the customer information includes information about whether a customer is a corporate or an individual, and only when the customer is an individual, information advising the membership registration is transmitted, as suggested by Keen, because it would advantageously allow to tailor said method to a particular type of consumers, thereby increase effectiveness and potentially generate more revenue.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis et al. in view of Chefalas et al. and further in view of Fisher et al. (US 6,771,801 B1).

Claim 27. Berstis et al. in view of Chefalas et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 3, except specifically teaching that the customer registration is performed as a purchaser of a camera; and the membership registration is performed to receive an on-line album service in that image data of the customer can be stored up to a certain capacity.

Fisher et al. teaches a method for providing an on-line photograph album service, thereby suggesting providing said services for camera purchasers (C. 3, L. 10-18).

Art Unit: 3628

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Berstis et al. in view of Chefalas et al. to include that the customer registration is performed as a purchaser of a camera; and the membership registration is performed to receive an on-line album service in that image data of the customer can be stored up to a certain capacity, as disclosed in Fisher et al., because it would advantageously allows the user to start with a created by a professional basic album template, and adapt that template to the particular images the user has, as specifically stated in Fisher et al. (C. 2, L. 65-67).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/30/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the prior art fails to disclose transmitting information to the customer advising to perform a membership registration different from the customer registration, it is noted that Berstis et al. teaches transmitting a rebate (advising) to the consumer who had been registered as a purchaser of a product for completing on-line warranty registration [0018]-[0023].

In response to applicant's argument that the prior art fails to disclose and the membership registration is performed in order for the registered customer to receive a web service related to the merchandise, it is noted that Chefalas et al. teaches a method for on-line product support, wherein warranty services, including repair or trouble-shooting of customer's product, are conducted on-line [0013]; [0008]; [0004].

Conclusion

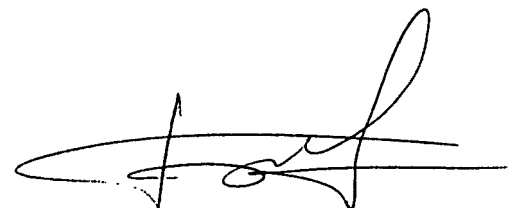
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IB
06/22/2007



IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER